

a storage device for medical swabs. It constitutes a flexible base layer or film having depressions for holding the swabs and a cover layer or film which is integrally sealed over the depressions to form chambers enclosing the swabs. One applies finger pressure to the cover layer or film to open the cover layer to provide access for removing the swab from the depression of the chamber.

The references are all different from the claimed invention. As explained in the Amendment filed on June 8, 2001, Applezweig is a package for tablets having a pair of plastic bands which are heat sealed together to form envelopes which can be torn to release the tablets held in the envelopes. Both layers of the envelopes are torn. There are unnumbered notches shown in Figure 1 of Applezweig to facilitate the tearing process. The device of Applezweig is described in column 3, line 52 through column 4, line 14. The references to Roulin et al., Troll et al., and Gregory et al. are all push-through devices wherein a tablet is held in an envelope, and finger pressure is made on one side of the tablet to cause it to burst through the other side of the envelope.

None of the references disclose the following portions in each of claims 16 and 18:

Claim 16. "...the chambers being broken in response to the application of finger pressure on the flexible cover layer to tear the flexible cover layer inward to provide access to the medical swab through the broken cover layer."

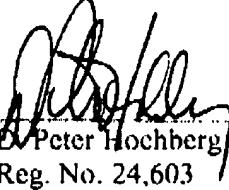
Claim 18. "...the chambers opening in response to the exertion of finger pressure on the covering film to provide access to the medical swabs through the opening in the covering film."

New claim 22 incorporates language from claims 16 and 17, and is in proper form to be included in a Rule 116 Amendment. Claim 22 includes the following language not taught or suggested in the references:

Claim 22. "...said envelope having receiving depressions for holding the medical swabs, and a flexible cover layer sealed to the base layer to form chambers..., said cover layer opening in response to finger pressure on the cover layer to provide access to the chamber holding the medical swabs through the opening in the cover layer."

It is respectfully submitted that the Claims are in proper condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if there is any issue to be discussed in this application or the present Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time w/Credit Card Payment Form for fee

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket : R00206US.CPA (#90568)
Inventor : A. Fellinger
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Title : Storage Device for Medical Swabs

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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MARKED UP CLAIMS

In response to the Advisory Action dated February 1, 2001, please amend the above-identified application prior to its application, without prejudice, as follows:

16. (Four Times Amended) Storage device for medical swabs consisting essentially of an envelope for medical swabs which is formed by a flexible base layer and a flexible cover layer between which are provided adjacently disposed chambers whose size is determined by the number and size of swabs to be stored, wherein the flexible base layer and the flexible cover are integrally joined in areas between the chambers, the chambers being broken in response to the application of finger pressure on the flexible cover to tear the flexible cover layer inward to provide access to the medical swabs through the broken cover layer.

18. (Four Times Amended) Storage device for medical swabs comprising an envelope, said envelope having a flexible base film and a flexible covering film wherein said envelope has adjacent chambers wherein said chambers comprise two flexible layers which are integrally

bonded with each other in the areas between the chambers, the chambers opening in response to the exertion of finger pressure on the covering film to provide access to the medical swabs through the opening in the covering film.